

Cora language

Cora is an indigenous language of Mexico of the Uto-Aztecan language family. It is spoken by the ethnic group that is widely known as the Cora but who refer to themselves as *Naáyarite*. The Cora inhabit the northern sierra of the Mexican state Nayarit which is named after its indigenous inhabitants. Cora is a Mesoamerican language and shows many of the traits defining the Mesoamerican Linguistic Area. Under the General Law of Linguistic Rights of the Indigenous Peoples it is recognized as a "national language" along with 62 other indigenous languages and Spanish which have the same "validity" in Mexico [1] (https://web.archive.org/web/20070208095913/http://www.sep.gob.mx/work/resources/LocalContent/62817/12/ley_gen_derechos_ling_indigenas_2.htm).

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Cora	
naáyarite	
Region	Mexico: Nayarit, Jalisco, Durango
Ethnicity	Cora
Native speakers	20,100 (2010 census) ^[1]
Language family	Uto-Aztecan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corachol <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cora
Official status	
Regulated by	Secretaría de Educación Pública
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	Either: <p>crn – El Nayar Cora</p> <p>cok – Santa Teresa Cora</p>
Glottolog	cora1260 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/cora1260) ^[2]

Geographic distribution

Ethnologue distinguishes two main variants of Cora. One is called *Cora del Nayar* or *Cora Meseño* and is spoken mainly in and around the medium-altitude settlements of Mesa de Nayar and Conel Gonzales in the south of the el Nayar municipality of Nayarit, and has approximately 9,000 speakers (1993 census). There are significant differences between some of these varieties and some sources distinguish between *Cora Mariteco* (of Jesus Maria), *Cora Presideño* (of Presidio de los Reyes), *Cora Corapeño* (of San Juan Corapan) and *Cora Franciscqueño* (of San Francisco). But Ethnologue considers the mutual intelligibility between these and *Meseño* to be high enough to classify them as a single language.

The other variant recognized by the Ethnologue is called *Cora de Santa Teresa* or *Cora Tereseño* and is spoken by approximately 7,000 people (1993 census), for the most part in the high sierra in the north of el Nayar. Cora de Santa Teresa has such a low degree of mutual intelligibility with other Cora speech communities that Ethnologue considers it a separate variety. Due to recent migrations a small community of Coras exists in the United States in western Colorado.



Main communities where Cora is spoken in the Nayar municipality.

Dialects

Cora speakers themselves recognize only five dialects: Cora de Jesús María, Cora de Mesa de Nayar, Cora de Sta. Teresa, Cora de Corápan and Cora de San Francisco. Highland speakers consider Cora of Preseidio de los Reyes to be identical to the dialect of the other lowland community Corápan, and Cora of Dolores to be identical to Cora of Sta Teresa.^[3]

Cora is spoken in a number of dialects, some of which have difficult mutual intelligibility. The International Organization for Standardization distinguishes two languages, and the Instituto Nacional de Lenguas Indígenas recognizes nine.

El Nayar Cora / Jesús María Cora (Cora Mariteco)

Dolores Cora

Rosarito Cora

San Blasito Cora

San Juan Corapan Cora (Cora Corapeño)

Santa Teresa Cora (Cora Tereseño)

La Mesa del Nayar Cora (Cora Meseño)

Presidio de los Reyes Cora (Cora Presideño)

San Francisco Cora (Cora Francisqueño)

Classification

The closest relatives of the Cora language is the Huichol language together with which it forms the Coracholan subgroup of the Uto-Aztec languages. The Taracahitan group of languages containing among others the languages Tarahumara, Yaqui and Mayo is also related to Cora.

- **Uto-Aztecan**

- **Coracholan branch**

- **Huichol language**

- **Cora languages**

Phonology

The phonology of Cora is typical of southern Uto-Aztec languages, with five vowels and a relatively simple consonant inventory. However atypically of Uto-Aztec languages, Cora has developed a simple tonal system or pitch accent with an harmonic accent taking high falling tone.

Consonants

	<u>Bilabial</u>		<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Palatal / Retroflex</u>	<u>Velar</u>		<u>Glottal</u>
	<u>plain</u>	<u>lab.</u>			<u>plain</u>	<u>lab.</u>	
<u>Nasal</u>	m	m ^w	n				
<u>Plosive</u>	p/b	p ^w	t		k	k ^w	ʔ
<u>Fricative</u>			s	ʃ	x		h
<u>Affricate</u>			ts	tʃ			
<u>Semivowel</u>				j		w	
<u>Liquid</u>			l	ɭ			

Vowels

	<u>Front</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>Back</u>
<u>Close (high)</u>	i	ɨ	u
<u>Mid</u>	ɛ		
<u>Open (low)</u>		ɑ	

Grammar

Cora is a verb-initial language; its grammar is agglutinative and polysynthetic, particularly inflecting verbs with many affixes and clitics. There are a number of adpositional clitics that can also be used as relational nouns.

Nominal morphology

Nouns are marked for possession and exhibit several different plural patterns.

Pluralization

Different classes of nouns mark the plural in different manners. The most common way is by means of suffixes - The suffixes used for pluralization are the following: *-te*, *-mwa*, *-mwa'a*, *-tse*, *-tsi*, *-kɨ*, *-sɨ*, *-se*, *-si*, *-ri* and *-i*. Other ways to form the plural is by reduplication of the final vowel of a noun stem or by shifting the accent from one syllable to the other. Another class of words form their plurals by suppletion.

Possession

Possessed nouns are marked with a prefix expressing the person and number of their possessor. The forms of the prefix expressing first person singular is *ne-*, *na-*, or *ni-*, for second person singular it is *a-*, *mwa'a-*, *a'a-*. The third person singular is marked by the prefix *ru-*. A first person plural possessor is marked by the prefix *ta-*, second person plural by *ha'amwa-* and third person plural by *wa'a-*. Furthermore, there are two suffixes. One, *-ra'an* is used to mark an obviative or fourth person possessor. The other is *-me'en* used to mark a plural possessum of a singular possessor.

Possessive paradigm

Number/person of Possessor	Singular	Plural
1. person	<i>nechi'i</i> "my house"	<i>tachi'i</i> "our house"
2. person	<i>achi'i</i> "your house"	<i>há'amwachi'i</i> "Your (pl.) house"
3. person	<i>ruchi'i</i> "his/her own house"	<i>wa'áchi'i</i> "Their house"
4. person	<i>chí'ira'an</i> "the house of the other"	
pl. possessum + 3.p.sg. possessor	<i>chí'imeen</i> "his/her houses"	

Verbal morphology

Verbs are inflected for person and number of subject and direct object and object prefixes for 3rd person inanimate objects also show the basic shape of the object. Verbs are also inflected for location and direction.

Syntax

Typologically Cora is interesting because it is a VSO language but also has postpositions, a trait that is rare cross-linguistically but does occur in a few Uto-Aztecan languages (Papago, Tepehuán, and some dialects of Nahuatl).

Media

Cora-language programming is carried by the CDI's radio station XEJMN-AM, broadcasting from Jesús María, Nayarit.

References

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 2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Cora" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/cora1260>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
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External links

- [ELAR archive of Language Documentation and Verbal Art among the Náayeri of Jesús María, Nayarit](http://elar.soas.ac.uk/deposit/0281) (<http://elar.soas.ac.uk/deposit/0281>)
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